

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T-101/96]

Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 1996 and Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun for 1994-95 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy of the Environment (Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 176(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 1996, under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T-102/96]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehra Dun, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehra Dun, for the year 1994-95.
(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library See No. L.T-103/96]

RE: DEATHS DUE TO STAMPEDE AT HARIDWAR AND UJJAIN

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yesterday a tragic accident took place in Haridwar, a holy city, in which 26 people including children and women, lost their lives and many other people sustained injuries. The administration despite expecting a large crowd at that place did not take any precaution. There was only one bridge for the movement of the people and neither the administration nor the police thought of putting a rope between the bridge to make it a two way path. The police had accommodated small vendors of their choice there and they collected money from them. In spite of large crowd there, these vendors were also not removed.

I, through you, would like to draw the attention of this House as well as of the Government towards this accident. Many such accidents have taken place in the past. One bridge has been lying damaged there for a long time but the Government has not paid attention towards it so far... (Interruptions) Many irregularities have been committed there. Will the loss be compensated by giving rupees one lakh each to a few people? I would like to request the Government to get the damaged bridge reconstructed there and make a provision of one way on this bridge. The policy officers who are responsible for the accident, should be punished... (Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, at 5 a.m. some were going to Ujjain for Darshan on the occasion of 'Somwati Amawasya'. When the local Commissioner was performing pooja at the VIP gate, the crowd became uncontrollable and there was a stampede. Due to this, about 45 people were killed and several others injured. The injured are neither getting any proper treatment nor any assistance. The administration officials are not paying attention. Yesterday, attention of the Government was drawn towards this accident and the Government had assured that it would come out with a statement today in this regard. I request you to ask the Government to make a statement in this regard and provide relief worth rupees two lakhs to the family members of the deceased. The injured should also be provided relief and arrangement should be made for making treatment facility available to them.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the accidents which took place yesterday at Haridwar and Ujjain were really tragic. Not only the families of the deceased but the whole country and this House is grief stricken over these accidents. According to my information carelessness had been shown by the administration there.

Sir, I would also like to state that on such occasions when millions of pilgrims gather at one place, the administration should make proper arrangements of sanitation, lodging and 'Darshan' so as to avert any untoward incidents... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ujjain is a famous pilgrimage. After every twelve years, a fair is organised there. After every four years, on 'Somwati Amawasya' which falls on a special Monday, this fair is organised. It was 'Somwati Amawasya' on that day and millions of people were expected to gather there. The administration was expected to keep this in mind but the higher officials knowingly organised a drink party one day before the Mela and they were all intoxicated. They did not pay attention towards the arrangements for the fair and it resulted into death of 40 persons including children. The Verrandah is very wide there. So, there was no question of suffocation. It was only due to mismanagement on the part of the

police that this accident took place and so many persons were killed. Therefore, each family of the deceased should be provided a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh and strict action should be taken against the administrative officials... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I think, it is enough

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : There should be a statement from the Government because so many people have died. What is the factual position? That should be known to the House. The hon. Home Minister should make a statement in the House. What are the causes of this calamity? It should be made known to the House. What action has been taken by the Government... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had requested the presiding Chairman to ask the hon. Minister to make a statement on Haridwar stampede. It is not the first time that such an accident has taken place at Haridwar. The Administration was aware of the fact that such an occasion was coming after 25 years but it did not make any special arrangements for this purpose. There are some accidents which cannot be averted but this accident at Haridwar took place as a result of administrative lapses. The Union Government and the hon. Home Minister are directly responsible for this accident.

I want to make it clear that the way in which the Hindu pilgrimages and the Hindu religious artifacts are being intentionally made victims or carelessness, is not proper. (Interruptions) The hon. Home Minister is present here and he is solely and directly responsible for the administration in Uttar Pradesh because the state is under President's Rule. I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement and satisfy the House by stating the reasons responsible for the accident and the action being taken by him in this regard. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN (Banda) : Ten persons were killed and atleast fifty persons were injured on 'Amawasya' day at Chitrakoot located on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This incident also took place due to carelessness on the part of the administration. There were no roads, no electricity and no water. The accident took place at Chitrakoot due to negligence of the U.P. and M.P. Governments. Such an incident had taken place once in the past. At that time, about two dozen people had died due to lack of potable water, heat wave and thirst. In spite of that, the State Governments did not take precaution. I would like the Union Government to interfere in the matter and make

available the above facilities under a scheme. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : There should be a direction from the Chair to the Government because so many people have died. The factual position should be made known to the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a serious tragedy that has taken place in Kalimpong. Till today nobody knows what the total number of deaths is. The official report says that it is more than forty. The Army admittedly could not reach the spot. The road is blocked. It is a tourist centre but now everything is blocked there. Even relief arrangements could not reach there. I request the Government to contract the State and Shri Subhash Ghising directly and rescue the people because the situation there is very grave. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : The Home Minister should have made a *suo moto* statement.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Sir, I shall respond to the hon. Member.

This is about landslide in Darjeeling. My Ministry has already faxed and telephoned to the State Government for sending a full report... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the Home Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you allow the Home Minister to reply or not?

(Interruptions)

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jaipalguri) : Sir, I have to raise a very serious matter. In North Bengal three districts have been affected by floods. Fifty-one people have died. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, we are not discussing about floods. Tomorrow we are going to discuss about the flood situation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Sir, people are dying there. Therefore, I request the Government to release funds and medical aid to North Bengal immediately to save the people. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow we shall be discussing about the flood situation. You will get a chance then.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, these are truly very very serious tragedies which have occurred, one at Ujjain and one at Haridwar...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir, three. Chitrakoot also.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the Home Minister. If you are serious about the matter, then you should listen to the Home Minister

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is not the way. We are all concerned about this. The Home Minister is going to make a statement. You should have the patience to listen to him.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, we propose to obtain, as soon as possible, the fullest information from both the State Governments. Although one of them is not under President's rule but because of the very heavy loss of life which has taken place, we will obtain information from the Governments of both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, which is under President's rule. These are matters of serious concern for the whole country. It is obvious that there has been some mismanagement and some lack of proper precautions being taken by the authorities. But we must obtain all the facts and I hope that by tomorrow I shall be able to make a detailed statement in the House on both these tragedies (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is enough. You cannot expect the Home Minister to explain everything just now. The Home Minister has promised to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not the way. I cannot allow you. When I am standing, you should sit down. Please sit down now. This is not the way to behave.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAH (Faizabad) : It is very strange. It is yesterday morning's incident.. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is a very serious matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. I fully share the sentiments expressed in this House. It is a very tragic incident. The Home Minister will make a statement tomorrow after getting full facts.

* Not Recorded

On behalf of the House I would convey the condolences of the whole House to the members of the bereaved families.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Ram Vilas Paswan may present the Railway Budget.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, I am on a point of propriety. Hon. Prime Minister should have been present in the House when the Railway Budget is being presented. He is not present now. It is a matter of courtesy to the House that he should be present ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North East) : Sir, it is for the first time like this. It has never happened earlier. All Prime Ministers were present when the Railway Budget was presented. It has never happened in the past like this ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune) : It is not the correct situation. Last time the Prime Minister was not here... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : The new Government is going to present its first Railway Budget and the hon. Prime Minister is not present in the House.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is a point of propriety. In the meantime you allow us to raise other issues here during Zero Hour... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I am also on a point of propriety. They held to power without majority for 13 days. (Interruptions) They are giving lectures... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am told the Prime Minister is coming.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, should I wait for the Prime Minister or should I start? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You start.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : There is no Railway Budget in Karnataka.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, the train is late because the driver is late ... (Interruptions)